must be trained properly. This has been going on for the last 30-40 years. The previous Minister have given the same answers. So, the situation is, though we produce quite a lot of power, it is not available for domestic purposes, leave alone industrial purposes. I would suggest to the hon. Minister that he should not say that it is a State subject; it is a very important national subject and the people who look after the transmission lines and who come and read Meters must be literate. I do not think they are. This is so poor in quality and that is the reason why most of the troubles are taking place in the electricity system of the whole vountry. I am pretty certain of that.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: I am grateful to the suggestions given by the hon. Member, But I must point out that long-distance and inter-State transmission is in the domain of the National Power Grid. The Sub-transmission invariably come in the domain of the SEBs.

May I point out here that the national T&D losses are about 22-23 per cent, which is very high? We are addressing the problem. But the real issue is not that of qualification of the staff; the issue is that we need to bring about a culture in our country where people do realise that it costs money to produce pwoer. It is not one of God's gifts that can be taken free of cost. We need to make the theft of power socially unacceptable. I think we need to be honest about that As far as addressing this issue is concerned....*(interuptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, still there are about 20 Member s who want to ask supplementary questions, but there is no time. As some hon. Members have suggested. We can have a discussion on the subject later in one form or the other.

Now, let us take question No. 43. Shri O.P. Kohli.

Pumping in of RDX by ISI

*43 SHRI O.P. KOHLI:†
SHRI RAGHAVJI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ISI is pumping RDX into the country through Nepal and Bangladesh;

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†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri O.P. Kohli

(b) if so, how much RDX has been pumped so far into the country, the number of ISI agents arrested and the action taken against them; and

[c) the steps taken to check the pumping of RDX into the country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) A statment is enclosed.

Statement

fa) *W* (c) The ISI has been exploiting the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bangaldesh bordres for mounting major terrorist activities against India. Instances of smuggling of RDX from the India-Nepal and India-Bangladesh borders have also come to notice in recent years.

Central Goverment does not maintain consolidated information regarding the details of RDX seized in various parts of the country and ISI agents arrested and action taken against them.

Measures have been taken to ensure cooperation with Nepal and Bangladesh in this regard. Joint Working Groups have been set up with both countries for enhancing cooperation for effective border management. The problem faced in the managment of India-Nepal and India-Bangladesh borders have been periodically discussed with Nepalese and Bangladesh authorities respectively at various levels with a view to sort them out.

As far as India-Bangladesh border is concerned, a series of measures are being taken internally to enhance security. These include, inter-alia, raising of additional Battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, in tensification of patrolling both on land and the riverine border, an accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fencing etc. As regards India-Nepal border, historically, this has been an open border with a visa-free travel regime. In view of exploitation of this open border for staging anti-India activities, it is proposed to effectively monitor this border to check misuse by strengthening policing and intelligence collection machinery along this border.

श्री ओम प्रकाश कोहली: मान्यवर सभापति महोदय, माननीय गृह मंत्री जी ने अपने लिखित उत्तर में भारत –बंगलादेश और भारत-नेपाल सीमा के प्रभावशाली प्रबंधन के बारे में उठाए गए कदमों का उल्लेख किया है। यह प्रयास निश्चय ही सराहनीय है, किन्तु मैं माननीय गृह मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या भारत – नेपाल सीमा पर अनेक मदरसे स्थापित हो गए हैं

जिनका उपयोग आई0 एस0 आई0 नौजवानों में भारत विरोधी मानसिकता के निर्माण के लिए कर रही है? इन मदरसों और आई0एस0आई0 के बीच क्या संबंध है? इन मदरसों का वित्तीय पोनषण और संचालन कैसे होता है? यदि सरकार को इसकी जानकारी है तो उसने इस संबंध में अब तक क्या कार्रवाई की है?

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी: मान्यवर सभापति जी, यह इंडो-नेपाल सीमा लगभाग 1750 किलोमीटर है और चार भारतीय प्रांत, प्रवदेश उससे लगते है और यह सबको ज्ञात है कि यह बहुत ही ओपन और पोरस बार्डर है, केवल भौगोलिक कारणों से ही नहीं बल्कि इस कारण भी कि भारत और नेपाल, के विशेश संबंध रहे है और भारत और नेपाल के बीच जो संधि है, वह एक प्रकार से पासपोर्ट वीजा रिज़ीम को स्वीकार नहीं करती । लेकिन, विगत वर्षो में, यह बात सही है कि इसका लाभ आई0एस0आई0 ने उठाने की कोशिश की है और इस बारे में भारत और नेपाल, मिलकर के सतत् प्रयास करते रहे हैं।

आपने स्पेसिफिकली मदरसों का सवाल उठाया है, यह बत सही है कि सीमा पर काफी मदरसे है और विगत कुछ वर्षो में इनकी संख्या में वृद्वि भी हुई है और सरकार उसके बारे में नज़र रखती है, लेकिन अगर कोई कार्रवाई आपत्तिजनक होगी तो ही कार्रवाई करेंगे अन्यथा नजर रखना उचित होगा।

और जो सवाल पूछे गए है, खासकर के आई0एस0आई0 द्वारा यहां पर आर0डी0 एक्स भिजवाने के, वैसी विगत दो-तीन वर्षो में पांच घटनाएं हुई है, जिन पांच घटनाओं में अपराधियों को पकड़ा गया है और आर0डी0एक्स0 को पकड़ा गया है। मदरसो के बारे में नज़र रखी जाती है, नेपाल, सरकार और भारत सरकार की सिक्युरिटी एजेंसीज़ जो है वे मिलकर इन्फारमेशन एक्सचेंज, इंटेलिजेस एक्सचेंज आदि करके जितना बार्डर मैनेजमेंट हम कर सकते हैं, उतना करते है।

श्री ओम प्रकाश कोहली: मान्यवर सभापति महोदय, मेरे दूसरे पूरक प्रश्न के दो भाग है।

(क) क्या सरकार को आई0एस0आई0 और भारत में काम कर रहे आतंकवादी संगठनों के गठबंधन के ठोस सबूत मिले है? यदि हां तो इस गठबंधन से उत्पन्न खतरों का सामना करने के लिए सरकार ने क्या काम उठाए है?

(ख) क्या देश में आई0एस0आई0 की गतिविधियों के बारे में स्वेत –पत्र जारी करने का सरकार का कोई इरादा है? यदि हां, तो कब तक?

आई0एस0आई0 और देश में काम कर रहे आतंकवादी संगठनों के बीच क्या कोई गठबंधन है?

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी: देश में जो आतंकवादी संगठन है वे पंजाब में जम्मू-कश्मीर में और उत्तर-पूर्वी भारत में है और उनमें से निश्चय ही कुछ ऐसे हैं जिनका आई0एस0आई0 से गठबंधन रहा है और आई0एस0आई0 उनकी सहायता करती रही है।

स्वेतपत्र के बारे में संसद की जो गृह मंत्रालय से संबंधित सलाहकार समिति है, उसने पिछले साल इसे जारी करने का सुझाव दिया था और तब से लेकर आज तक इस विषय में आवश्यक जानकारी इकट्ठा की जा रही है और स्वेतपत्र प्रस्तुत किया जाएगा संसद में लेकिन अभी तक यह पूरी तरह से तैयार नहीं हुआ है।

SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Sir, I am sorry to say that the reply of the honourable Minister is very unsatisfactory. His party orgain has described him as the second Sardar Patel. I do not find any strong action in his reply. I would like to invite his attention to three things. The first thing is that the I.S.I, is active not only in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, but it is also active in the Tarai region, in western U.P., around Meerut. Then, it is also active in the North East, Calcutta, Chennai, Mumbai, Delhi; in fact, in all the metropolitan cities. In fact, they have encircled India. The second thing to which I would like to invite his attention is that Ms. Jayalalitha when she was your supporter—made a statement that Saudi Arabian terrorists had come to India. The bomb blasts in Coimbatore were their handiwork. Thirdly, I would like to invite the attention of the Minister to a recent article in "Assian Age" by Mr. M.K. Narayanan, former Chief Editor. Now what he has said is very disturbing. He has said certain things. The one thing he has said is that the I.S.I, has a blueprint for stepping up militancy in the North-East. The second thing he has said is that young Muslim immigrants who have come from Bangladesh are targeted by the I.S.I The third thing is about a dozen organisations which are working there, in the North-East, suporting the I.S.I. The last thing that he say is that I.S.I.'s connections in the North-East have been more insidious than those in Jammu and Kashmir. In recent years, there has been a mushrooming of organisations of indeterminate origin, whose activities are beginning to cause a great deal of concern. Tl is has given entirely a new dimension to the problem in the North East, substantially widening the ambit of fundamentalist militancy in the region. Now, I would like to know what action has been taken because the statement that is coming from Mr. Advani is very disappointing. The Central Goverment does not maintain consolidated information regarding details of RDX. Can you say that it is a State subject? Why can't you have a consolidated information? Secondly, he says that it is proposed to effectively monitor this border to check infiltration. But so far nothing has been done. It is only proposed. So, I would like to know what strong action the Government has already taken.

DR. M.N. DAS: Sir, I am on point of order....*(Interruptions)*....

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is Question Hour. So, no point of order is allowed during Question Hour. No, no...*(Intermptions)*...

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member for expressing disappointment only over the statement because I can assure him that it is not strong words but strong action which the country expects today. I can only say that this concern expressed by the hon. Member is today the concern of the whole nation because the nation has been made conscious of the fact that the ISI is not confined to one region, this region only. It was in the context of the ISI having a nexus with militant organisations in the country that I referred to the North-East, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. I can say that the ISI tentacles have spread throughout the country. There is no area and no State of the country which is free from the attempts of the ISI to enroll agents and to build up modules there. In the matter of RDX itself, we may not have a consolidated statement. But, at the same time, I may mention that while only 3.5 kgs. of RDX was used in Bombay for the blasts there, in the last two years, 1998 and 1999, the Governments, the Central and the States, have succeeded in seizing more than, 4,000 kgs. of RDX in various raids and operations in collaboration with Bangladesh and Nepal. All these efforts have yielded result.

So, it is not merely that I have said something in the statement which has disappointed you—I feel happy that you are disappointed — because it is not expected to be the kind of action, and, after all, I have referred to only the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bangladesh operations. In that regard, we are going ahead and we are confident that we will be able to deal with this threat very effectively.

There was another specific question in the course of your comments. Mr. Narayanan has made some observations which we always take note of. As I said already, we do propose to bring to Parliament a comprehensive White Paper on the ISI activity. That is under preparation. In that all these facts which have come to our notice from various organisation, from various individuals, from various people who were earlier connected with inteligence agencies will be taken note of.

SHRI C. APOK JAMIR: Sir, during the last two years Nagaland has been observing cease-fire as per the Agreement between the

Government of India and the NSCN(IM). But, I am told that during this period, misery has been inflicted on the general public at large.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government strongly condemns this kind of action,, the ambush of the Chief Minister of Nagaland. The NSCN(IM) is suspected to be behind it. But it has denied any involvement in it. We are pursuing the matter. If the NSCN(IM) is responsible for it, as has been suspected very widely, then, we regard it as a serious violation of the cease-fire that we have agreed upon. I can only assure the House that all necessary steps are being taken against the bcakground of this serious episode.

DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: I am happy that the hon. Home Minister is present here and that he is very much concerned over the problem.

Sir, only a few months back RDX was recoverd in Assam from different areas. In Lakhra area of Guwahati, from the residence of one Babul Ingti, 13 kilogram of RDX was recovered. He was backed by the ISI. He was an ULFA Commandant. He died in the encounter.

In my home district, Nowgong, in the Hoja area of Murarjhar, ISI agents are very much active. They are involved in so many illegal activities and are helping the militant outfits there. As a result, bomb blasts and explosions in different parts of Assam are taking place.

In 1996-97, one bomb aimed at the Chief Minister's car in Maligaon was thrown. Only a few months back in Dispur, in the capital complex, one bomb had exploded. In every blast, ISI activists were involved.

Sir, the State Governments are trying their best to stop such activities, but my humble suggestion to the hon. Home Minister is that as far as the border management is concerned, as he has stated in his reply, the border area has to be fully protected. For that purpose, the BSF has to be further strengthened. The no-man's land is a thickly populated area and through the no-man's land, the ISI agents and their activists are infiltrating. So many cases of such infiltration have already been detected.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please put specific question.

DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: I am putting, Sir.

The ISI activists are coming through the indo-Bangladesh border and are mingling with the whole militant outfits and are doing all these illegal activities.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have not put any question. You have only given information.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: She wants the BSF to be strengthened.

DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Sir, I would request the hon. Minister to take some immediate steps to stop the whole thing. He should take immediate steps, leading to fruitful results.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, the hon. Member has referred to the problems in Assam. I have already indicated about the links of the principal militant organisations in Assam, namely the ULFA, with the ISI. It is not a secret any more. So, when one talks about the ISI activities in Assam, it is not just through infiltrators or some people whom they may have engaged, but it is principally through a militant organisation which is functioning there. The Government of India has declared it as an unlawful organisation.

So far as strengthening the border through greater use of the BSF is concerned, the Government is conscious of it. All that I can say is in respect of Assam also there is a continuous interaction between the Central Government and the State Government both at the level ot the Chief Minister as well as at the level of the Governor to see that the militancy in Assam and any pumping in of RDX in Assam is stopped.

So far as RDX is concerned, it is a lethal explosive. Therefore, the Government contemplates declaring RDX and such other lethal explosives as a special category of explosives different from the explosives used in mining etc. Therefore, any one found in possession of that would be subjected to a very severe punishment.

SHRI S. PETER ALPHONSE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not happy with the reply of the hon. Ministe . He said that he does not have any consolidated information about the RDX pumped into the

country and also about the ISI agents who are present in the country. The information that I have got is, the ISI is a major source of threat to the sovereignty and integrity of the nation. How is that the Government is dare enough to say that they don't have any consolidated information about the activities, about the persons involved and also the dangerous material that is being transported illegally into the country?

In this connection, I would like to quote from the Sri Krishna Commission's report. If my information is correct, the Commission says, "Some of the RDX material which was transported into India was actually transported with the connivance of some Custom Department officials." There is also information that the RDX is being transported into the country with the tacit support of certain blacksheep in the Custom Department as well as in the Border Security Force. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a newspaper report wherein it has been said that the lottery money of a particular North-Eastern State was diverted towards the purchase of RDX material for terrorists. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what action the Government proposes to take against the black sheep present in the Customs Department and the BSF who are actually supporting the anti-national elements. These anti-national elements are trying to destabilise the country.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, the questioner had asked the Government about the number of ISI agents arrested and the action taken against them and how much RDX has been pumped into the country so far. So, the answer was, "That we do not maintain a consolidated information in respect of these details because once a person is arrested, the trial is on; and the stage, etc., "It is in that context that this reply was given. As I have already assured the House, the Government does propose to bring a white paper to inform about the ISI activities in general.

Regarding the question of blacksheep in the Government, the Government is always conscious about these matters. If our attention is drawn to any specific case, the Government will take stern action.

SHRI ADHIK SHIRODKAR: Would the hon. Minister consider issuing instructions that in the case of offences concerning RDX, a charge-sheet should be filed within 60 day of the detection of the

offence to ensure a speedy trial and to prevent the accused getting bail by default? Would he also consider issuing further instructions that all hearings should be concluded within four months to prevent the lapse of memory on the part of the witnesses? Of course, this could be done in consultation with the hon. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Law.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I said earlier, the Government already proposes to bring forth a Bill before Parliament, which includes RDX and such other lethal explosives, special category of explosive under the purview of this Bill. For that purpose, the Explosives Act is sought to be amended. At that point of time, suggestions of this nature would certainly be taken into consideration.

†**श्री शरीफ-उद्दीन शरीकः** ऑनरेबल होम मिनिस्टर साहब ने फरमाया है कि आईएस आई का जाल सारे मुल्क में बिछा हुआ है।

श्री सभापति **:** आप सवाल कीजिए वक्त खत्म होने वाला है।

श्री शरीफ-उद्दीन शरीकः लेकिन कहीं न कहीं लेपसेस जरूर हैं सर । मिलिटेन्ट पाकिस्तान में हैं या पीओके में है, उसके वालिदेन और रिश्तेदार पासपोर्ट लेकर वहां से आते और जाते है। इस लेपसेस को जब तक देखा नहीं जाएगा तो आप कैसे पल्ग कर सकेंग़े और इसको देखने का आपके पास क्या तरीका हो सकता है?

श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणीः मैं यह तो वायदा नहीं करूंगा कि शासन के काम में कोई कमी नहीं रहती है। लेकिन यदि कोई भी स्पेसिफिक कमी आप ध्यान में लाएंगे, कोई लेपसेस होगा, जैसा अभी आपने कहा कि कोई मिलिटेन्ट है, उसके रिश्तेदार आते-जाते है, आप ध्यान में लाएंगे तो उस पर जरूर कार्यवाही की जाएगी।

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. I am not allowing anything.

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: What action has the Government taken in taking up a firm dialogue With the Bangladesh Government to ensure border fencing which has been pending since long? MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

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†Transliteration of the speech in Persian Script is available in the Hindi version of the Debate.